

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of June 6, 2005, claims 1, 12, 15 and 26 were rejected, claims 2-11, 13, 14, 16-21, 27 and 28 were objected to, and claims 22-25 and 29-45 were allowed.

It is respectfully acknowledged with appreciation that claims 2-11 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. The subject claim 6 has been incorporated into its respective base claim, claim 1, in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application. It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-5 and 7-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable, and also for the specific features recited therein.

Below is a discussion of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 12, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 15, and the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 26. These claims were rejected as being anticipated by Ray et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,328,813.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate a substantially similar limitation to that of allowable claim 6. Specifically, claim 12 as amended recites that the flange extending from the sleeve has the means for at least partially retaining a plurality of different sections of the excess portion of the lead. It is respectfully suggested that claim 12, as amended, patentably defines over Ray et al..

It is respectfully submitted that the patent to Ray et al. fails to teach or suggest a flange having means to at least partially retain a plurality of different sections of an excess portion of the lead. Rather, Ray et al. teaches retaining a portion of the lead 21 through the cooperation of a portion 18 of the plug 11 and the neck 14 of socket 10. (Ray et al., Col. 3, lines 41-51). Thus, Ray et al. fails to disclose retaining means for a plurality of different sections of the lead. As claim 12 now incorporates a substantially similar limitation to that of allowable claim 6, it is thus respectfully submitted that claim 12 is allowable.

Claims 13 and 14 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 12 is allowable, and also for the specific features recited therein.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate a substantially similar limitation to that of allowable claim 6. Specifically, claim 15 as amended recites that the outside surface of the burr hole ring has the means for retaining a plurality of different sections of the excess portion of the lead. It is respectfully suggested that claim 15, as amended, patentably defines over Ray et al..

It is respectfully submitted that the patent to Ray et al. fails to teach or suggest an outside surface of the burr hole ring having means to retain a plurality of different sections of an excess portion of the lead. Rather, Ray et al. teaches retaining a portion of the lead 21 through the cooperation of a portion 18 of the plug 11 and the neck 14 of socket 10. (Ray et al., Col. 3, lines 41-51). Thus, Ray et al. fails to disclose an outside surface of a burr hole ring having means to retain a plurality of different sections of the lead. As claim 15 now incorporates a

substantially similar limitation to that of allowable claim 6, it is thus respectfully submitted that claim 15 is allowable.

Claims 16-21 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 15 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 15 is allowable, and also for the specific features recited therein.

Claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 6. Specifically, claim 26 as amended recites a method of inserting a plurality of different sections of the excess portion of the lead into the lead retainer to retain the lead. It is respectfully suggested that claim 26, as amended, patentably defines over Ray et al..

It is respectfully submitted that the patent to Ray et al. fails to teach or suggest a method for partially retaining a plurality of different sections of an excess portion of the lead. Rather, Ray et al. teaches retaining a portion of the lead 21 through the cooperation of a portion 18 of the plug 11 and the neck 14 of socket 10. (Ray et al., Col. 3, lines 41-51). Thus, Ray et al. fails to disclose a method for retaining a plurality of different sections of the lead. As claim 26 now incorporates the subject matter of allowable claim 6, it is thus respectfully submitted that claim 26 is allowable.

Claims 27 and 28 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 26 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 26 is allowable, and also for the specific features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard S. Wesorick', written over a horizontal line.

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